

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4722

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0966

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, LI

SUBJECT: FONMIN DENNIS SAYS HE CANNOT SEE US-LIBERIAN "SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP"

REF: MONROVIA 0811

1. FONMIN DENNIS CALLED IN THEN CHARGE ON FEBRUARY 14 PURSUANT
TO CONVERSATION REPORTED MONROVIA 0811. HE MADE NO MENTION
OF PRG ISSUE BUT LAUNCHED INTO ANIMATED STATEMENT THAT INCLUDED
FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A. US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS DECLINING; FRG PROVIDES
GREATER PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THAT
LIBERIA GETS THAN US DOES; AND US IS NOW GIVING MORE ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE IN ABSOLUTE TERMS TO OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WHICH
ARE NOT SPECIAL FRIENDS OF US, THAN TO LIBERIA, WHICH IS.
DENNIS SAID PRESIDENT FORD HAD PROMISED PRESIDENT TOLBERT THAT
SOMETHING WOULD BE DONE IN FOOD PROGRAM. DENNIS BRUSHED ASIDE
AS "RIDICULOUS" PER-CAPITA AND OVER-ALL-TOTAL-ASSISTANCE
ARGUMENTS.

B. DENNIS WAS CALLED "STOOGIE" OF AMERICANS AT KINSHASA
MEETING OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE, AND DOES NOT FEEL
LIBERIA IS GETTING ENOUGH SPECIAL TREATMENT TO WARRANT SUFFER-
ING THAT EPITHET.

C. IF THERE IS A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP," DENNIS SAID, HE
HAD NOT SEEN IT IN HIS YEAR AND A HALF IN OFFICE.

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2. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD REPORT WHAT DENNIS HAD SAID AND DEPTH OF DENNIS' FEELINGS. ALTHOUGH HE HAD OPENED CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE WISHED "TO EXPRESS VERY SERIOUS CONCERN" OF GOL, AT END HE RESPONDED TO CHARGE'S STATEMENT THAT IT WAS NOT HIS BUSINESS WHAT CHARGE DID ABOUT DENNIS' PRESENTATION.

3. COMMENT: DENNIS CERTAINLY PUT ON SHOW OF AGITATION. BUT HE SEEMED ALSO AT END TO BE TRYING TO MAKE AMENDS FOR HIS RATHER AGGRESSIVE TACKLING OF CHARGE AT LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 6. HIS ATTITUDE IN LATEST CONVERSATION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN KINDER OR MORE CONSIDERATE.
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